

# The Baptist Record

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## Students will vote budget, hear Allen

Jimmy Allen, head of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission will be the closing speaker for the 1982 Mississippi Baptist Student Union Convention in Jackson, Sept. 24-26.

This is the annual business and inspiration meeting for students in the 26 campuses served by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Student Work department.

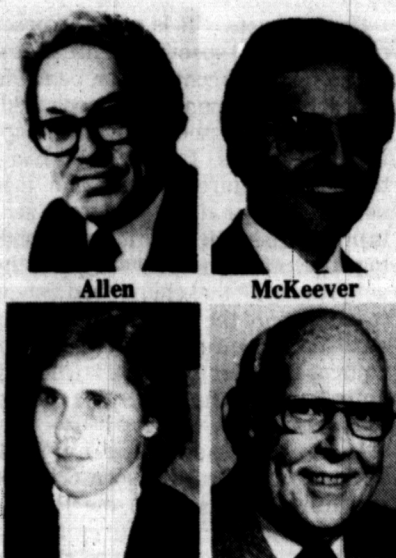
The meeting will take place at Colonial Heights Baptist Church and begins at 7 p.m., Friday, Sept. 24, concluding at 10:15 a.m., Sept. 26.

Other speakers include Keith Tonkel, United Methodist minister and a syndicated columnist, and John Mills, area director for West Africa for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Bible study leader for the convention will be Joe McKeever, pastor of First Church, Columbus.

Musician Faye Burgess will present concerts and special music during the convention. Miss Burgess, blind since birth, sings and plays the piano.

In a business session students will



Allen McKeever Burgess Mills

adopt a budget for the 1983 student missions program. Last year they voted to raise \$60,000 and appointed 70 student missionaries.

A group of 1982 student missionaries will offer their testimonies concerning their summer work.

## Baptists in state entering satellite age of television

### Video seminars

Mississippi Baptists are being invited to participate in what may be a "slice of the future" with a satellite broadcast of a Sunday School conference.

Jackson, Natchez, Hattiesburg, and Laurel are the sites for Adult Growth Emphasis Video Seminars on October 26. The seminars will all be held at Holiday Inns except in Laurel where West Laurel Baptist Church will be the host.

The purpose of the seminar, being beamed off SatCom 3, from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, is to introduce special emphasis on Adult Sunday School growth which is a part of "8.5 by '85."

The seminars all convene at 10:45 and conclude at noon at which time a luncheon will be served. Tickets at \$10 are being distributed by local hosts in each city. Admission will be by tickets only. Each seminar site will be able to handle approximately 100 persons. Therefore, each church is being invited to enlist two or three leaders of adults to attend one of these seminars.

This will be a first of a kind for Southern Baptists. The information to be shared is also unique. Churches will be offered new kinds of help in reaching adults for Bible Study.

About 85 other cities in the United States will participate in the program. The program will feature Sunday School department director Harry P. Land and other adult Sunday School consultants and videotaped interviews with church leaders.

The purpose of the seminar is to make churches aware of the need for

giving priority to adult growth in the 8.5 by '85 emphasis (an effort to increase SBC Sunday School enrollment to 8.5 million by Sept. 30, 1985).

"The use of satellite technology for this seminar also will serve as a pilot test for some of the kinds of programs we plan to make available through Baptist TelNet (a satellite network to churches to be launched by the board in 1984)," said Ralph McIntyre, director of the Bible teaching division.

### ACTS, Telnet

The ACTS Network and Baptist TelNet will be the subjects of Video Interpretation Meetings to be held in key areas of Mississippi in September. The purpose of the meetings will be to help orient pastors, staff, and other church leaders about the ACTS Network and Baptist TelNet and how their churches can be involved.

Dates for the meetings will be: Monday, Sept. 27, 7-9 p.m., First Church,

Hattiesburg; Tuesday, Sept. 28, 10-12, Baptist Building, Jackson; and Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7-9 p.m., First Church, Coffeeville. Since the format will be similar in each meeting, the date and location most convenient can be chosen.

Leading the session on ACTS will be Jerry Jones, consultant, broadcast services, Radio and Television Commission. (Continued on page 2)

## Fact-finding clergy find Lebanese hopeful, fearful

By Duann Kier  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists are actively involved in relief efforts in the Middle East and the Lebanese people are cautiously hopeful about the future, according to a Baptist who visited there.

W. David Lockard, director of organization for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission said, "These are critical days for Lebanon but they can also be a turning point to national strength and identity. The people with whom we talked said the removal of outside forces in Lebanon provides help for a new day of strength and unity in their country." Lockard just returned from a week-long interdenominational fact-finding mission of 11 clergymen sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and sanctioned by both the Israeli and Lebanese governments. According to Lockard the group had complete freedom in talking to individuals and officials throughout Lebanon.

Lockard said Southern Baptist missionaries and Lebanese Baptists and other Christians are actively involved in relief efforts. Ibrahim Siman, a Baptist pastor in Haifa, is working with injured refugees and their families and is assisted by funds from

Baptist churches in Israel as well as relief funds from the Foreign Mission Board.

"Siman coordinated Baptists and other volunteers in turning a Baptist-owned residence into a hostel for rehabilitation," he said. "Families are also being reunited." On the West Bank Lockard said, Southern Baptist physical therapists Jarrell Peach and John Pirkle are providing rehabilitation and an additional therapist is needed.

"Southern Baptists here at home can provide extra prayer and financial support for our missionaries in the Middle East and the Lebanese Baptists and Christians," Lockard said. Baptists in Lebanon and Israel are consulting to discover additional areas needing relief work.

James Ragland, missionary on furlough from Beirut, told Lockard the time following the end of the Israeli-Palestinian war in Lebanon will be one

(Continued on page 4)

## Budget division sets aside 27.96 percent

A statement in the Baptist Record of Sept. 2 concerning the Mississippi Baptist Convention budget for 1983 could have left some measure of confusion regarding the portion of the budget to be used for causes within the state. Of the total, 34.5 percent would go to Southern Baptist causes. The portion remaining in the state would be 65.1 percent. The latter percentage figure, however, includes the 27.96 percent that would go to Christian education and other agencies in Mississippi.

## Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering

Goal \$375,000

New Missions	\$124,000
Central Hills Operation	80,000
Garaywa Operation	60,000
Disaster Relief Ministry	35,000
Special Ministries	4,100
National Baptists	1,300
Indians	2,800
Parchman Ministry	20,000
Garaywa Improvement	20,000
Church Building Aid	13,000
Pastoral Aid	10,000
Mission Awareness	8,900

## "Goals that we see with our eyes here at home"

By Earl Kelly  
executive secretary-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The Margaret Lackey State Mission Offering goal for 1982-83 is \$375,000. Several mission causes are totally dependent upon this offering. Their dependence upon receipts from the State Mission offering does not indicate that they are second rate causes. Their visibility in this special offering underscores the great importance.

The operation of Central Hills Baptist Retreat and Camp Garaywa provided a Christian learning experience for 3,266 boys and girls this past summer. That's no second rate cause, for out of this group will come future missionaries, ministers and Christian leaders. \$160,000, which includes \$20,000 for Garaywa improvements, will be spent on these two projects. The camp and retreat are designed to help youth discern the Will of God. One cannot put a price tag on that goal. Because of the importance of these two ventures to the life of our denomination these two items have priority positions in the offering.

Equipping the employees of the state prison and their families to give a Christian witness to the thousands of prisoners that pass through Parchman is a major task. \$20,000 is only a partial supplement to help the Sunflower Association in their role. Mississippi Baptists cannot afford to do less. If we do not do this work, who will? No one has attempted the task but Baptists.

Already it is obvious that 12 churches from nine different associations must have outside help in the area of pastoral aid or church building aid if they survive dur-

ing 1983. Helping a church continue to minister through its pastor and building is no second rate cause. \$23,000 will be used from the Margaret Lackey Offering to assist struggling churches.

History reveals that an average of more than \$40,000 per year has been spent on disaster assistance during the past 23 years. Trained Mississippi Baptist laymen are on call to make instantaneous response to the call for help when hurricane, fire, tornado, or flood strikes. Baptists will not have time to take a special offering, nor need they do so, to meet the needs when they occur. \$35,000 of the offering will be escrowed until the time of need.

After we have met the priority items the remainder, hopefully \$124,000, will be used to buy sites for new missions and churches. Since 1974 the board has purchased 30 sites costing \$615,000. By rotating 12 mobile chapels which the board purchased for \$180,000 the convention board has helped create 40 new churches. These churches have already given more to missions than they cost, and they win more people to Christ per capita than their older sister churches. There are several areas in the state, where there is no church, needing a mission or church if the lost are to be reached.

Last year we gave \$2,757,189 through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. That's great—what we should have done for Foreign Missions. Last year we gave \$983,815 through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. That's wonderful—perhaps less than we should have done for Home Missions. Now we come to the \$375,000 goal for State Missions—What are we going to give to accomplish goals that we see with our eyes here at home?



Jerry Clower delivers hats to India Nunnery Campus. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

## The "Mouth of Mississippi" "caps" a successful career

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

It wasn't Fourth of July and it wasn't Labor Day, so residents of the Baptist Children's Village, Jackson got an extra family picnic on Monday, Aug. 30, when Yazoo City's Jerry Clower ate lunch with about 100 children and teenagers there, and showered them with gift hats.

Clower stood by the picnic table and told the crowd, "I thank you for your Christian love and for your smiling faces." He asked the Lord's blessing on the food, and then he shouted, "Pass the hamburgers!"

Meandering from one group to another, or sitting on the grass, now here, now there, the country comic managed to talk individually to many of the children.

Since he's received thousands of hats from advertisers and fans, hat-collecting has been added to his list of hobbies. The Grand Ole Opry and "Country Crossroads" star keeps hats that have been personalized (his name embroidered on them, or some similar special decoration) but hundreds of others he decided to give away. "He wanted them to bring pleasure to

others, and thought that children might like them," said Janice Simmons of Top Billing, his public relations agency.

The Baptist Children's Village was the second place he'd given away the baseball-type hats. Before then he'd given away caps at the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home at Franklin near Nashville. Afterward he planned to visit the Baptist Village campuses in Brookhaven, New Albany, and Independence.

"Funny things happen to everybody," Clower told the kids, from his stance on the hood of a truck. "They happen to you. Just write them down and some day you might get on television!" And he added, "I don't make up a thing. I get all my stories from observin' other people."

Anywhere Clower goes, there follows a coon dog tale. This occasion was no exception. And it produced some shouts of laughter to match Jerry's own. As a boy he fed "slick and slimy boiled okry" to his coon dog and "it went down so fast that dog thought the other dog got it, and jumped on him."

The funny man didn't go away with-

out a testimony: "I wouldn't be doing my conscience right," he said, "if I didn't tell you I am a Christian. I'm on your side. All over the world, everywhere I go, I'm gonna tell folks about the nice folks I met here."

The television cameras moved in closer and Clower yelled, "Okay, get your hats now! Come on and get on TV!" He told a newspaper reporter, "I love to see the children smile. And, if a lot of us had their problems, we wouldn't be smiling."

## Devastation in Paraguay fought

ALBERDI, Paraguay (BP)—With water topping homes, businesses and almost every recognizable landmark, Southern Baptist missionaries, Paraguayan Baptists, and employees from Baptist hospital, Asuncion, rowed through what used to be the main streets of Alberdi, offering food and medical and spiritual care.

Flood victims, many afraid to leave businesses and homes, lived in improvised plastic shelters on rooftops. More than three feet of water inundated the town and makeshift pumps strained to hold back the brown waters of the Paraguay River.

Six Baptist workers went to Acevedo Cue, an isolated high ground area where grass thatch shelters housed 300 people. They distributed food and medical supplies. "So far I've moved five times seeking refuge from the water," one Paraguayan told the Baptists.

Paraguayan Baptist home missionary Juan Valiente coordinated the relief effort. During one day's work Southern Baptist missionary physician Tom Kent saw 130 patients. After a worship service 25 people accepted Christ as Savior.

Relief funds are provided by the Evangelical Baptist Convention of Paraguay and the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

## Royal Ambassador Day to include football game

Mississippi Baptist boys are invited to the annual Royal Ambassador Day at Mississippi College Sept. 18.

The day's activities include attendance at the Mississippi College football game against Presbyterian College of Clinton, S.C.

Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Brotherhood department, the Saturday event begins at 11 a.m. and ends after the 4 p.m. football game. It includes lunch, a pep rally, testimonies from coaches and athletes, and from Royal Ambassadors. And it includes a visit with Mr. Choctaw, team mascot and a special message from a puppet group called

His Workmanship.

Jim Didlake, who directs RA work for Mississippi Baptists reports that all boys are invited to the conference, whether enrolled in Royal Ambassadors or not. "It allows RAs to realize they are a part of an ever growing number of boys dedicated to learning and sharing more in missions," said Didlake.

Cost of Royal Ambassador Day will be \$5 per person. Participants must make reservations ahead of time at Brotherhood department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205. The \$5 which includes the cost of lunch, insurance, and game tickets, is due with registration.

## RA Day—Mississippi College—Sept. 18



# capsules

## Cable bill opposed

A cable-television bill (H.R. 5949) that has been passed unanimously by the House Judiciary Committee is "the greatest threat to religious broadcasting in more than a decade," says the National Religious Broadcasters.

NRB is opposed to the bill because it would eliminate current "must carry" rules which require cable systems to include all local television stations. (Evangelical Newsletter.)

## Youth drowns

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Eric Hancock, 17, an active member of Brentwood Baptist Church in Houston, Texas, drowned in a Nashville motel swimming pool Aug. 13. He was part of a youth group that was enroute to the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn.

## "Out of control"

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)—"Desire out of control" ripped back the "thin veneer of civilization" and launched mobs on a mindless pillage of Nairobi a Southern Baptist missionary told a Voice of Kenya radio audience, Sunday morning Aug. 15.

Charles Tope's sermon on the commandment against covetousness was broadcast as citizens of Nairobi still reeled from the impact of massive looting—said to exceed \$50 million in unrecoverable damages—accompanying an abortive coup attempt Aug. 1-2.

## Holman concordance given book award

DALLAS, TEXAS — Holman Bible Publisher's New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible recently received the 1982 Gold Medallion Book Award at the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association meeting here in conjunction with the International Convention of Christian Booksellers.

## At pro-Israel rally

# Draper: God promised Arab nations blessings

By Norman Jameson  
DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy Draper, a Baptist minister and a vocal proponent of religion and politics, performed by fundamentalist, independent pastor John Hagee Aug. 28 at a "Night to Honor Israel" rally.

Hagee, pastor of the affluent, independent Church of Castle Hills in Northwest San Antonio, presented Draper, as "one of America's foremost religious leaders" and presented a plaque recognizing Draper's godly leadership in bringing together Jews and Christians in America.

Draper, however, disclaimed Hagee's intimation that Draper spoke for 13-million Southern Baptists; the nation's largest Protestant body, saying "I can only speak for myself."

Obviously conscious of Baptist-Jewish tensions, the past two years Draper delicately picked his way through to a statement supporting Israel and reaffirming the Arab nations as nations blessed of God. "Although

we have theological and political differences, Christians join Jews and people everywhere wanting peace for the world and especially for our friends in the Middle East," Draper said.

He recounted God's promise recorded in Genesis 17 to bless Ishmael from whom the Arab nations descended and said the Arab nations have become great as God promised. But God's covenant, said Draper, he made with Isaac and ultimately Israel. "As Bible believing Christians we need to recognize and reaffirm the right of Israel to exist with defined borders and in peace with a unified Jerusalem," Draper said to resounding applause.

But throughout Hagee's passionate rhetoric condemning everyone from CBS to "Russia's paid gangsters, the PLO," to that "jackal Arafat," Draper applauded only occasionally with the fervent crowd of 500 but never enthusiastically. At the end of Hagee's address, when the crowd rose to its feet, Draper remained conspicuously seated on stage.

Richard Fogel, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League's Dallas regional board, stayed seated on Draper's right. The other dozen stage personalities stood, including Moshe Gidron, consulate general of Israel at Houston.

Draper said his remaining seated was not consciously defiant and really had no meaning.

The rally was "much too hip hip hooray for political Israel," Draper said, explaining he was uncomfortable with the likely perception of his presence. "In some quarters my presence will be seen as supporting everything that happens in Israel."

In retrospect, Draper said he felt he would refuse any future request to participate in similar events but said once he realized the rally's political implications, "backing out at the last minute would have sent the wrong message to American Jews."

(Jameson is employed by Southwestern Seminary.)

## Snake handler dies

MULLENSVILLE, W. Va. (EP)—A preacher who handled poisonous snakes in his bare hands to demonstrate his faith was bitten by a rattlesnake and died after refusing medical treatment, authorities said.

John Lee Holbrook, 38, of Oceana was bitten during August 22 services at the Lord Jesus Church in Jesus' Name, according to Wyoming County Coroner Ned C. Rogers, and was pronounced dead at Oceana Medical Center August 23.

A woman who identified herself as a church member said Mr. Holbrook had routinely handled snakes as a demonstration of faith. She said the basis for serpent handling is found in Mark 16:18.

## Small fire evacuates

GLORIETA, N. M. (BP)—Burning insulation in Texas Main Hall at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center forced the evacuation of the housing unit for seven hours Aug. 18 but there were no injuries reported and only minor smoke damage.

Smoke detectors and fire alarms which had been installed in 1981 alerted the Glorieta Fire Department when insulation surrounding a basement water heater began to smolder.

## Religious TV rises

PHILADELPHIA (EP)—The number of persons who watch religious television programming is on the rise again, after a four-year downswing, recent audience surveys indicate. And cable TV, not monitored for audience estimates, promises to add many more viewers of the so-called "electronic church," according to Religious News Service.

Estimates published by the Arbitron Company between February, 1980, and February, 1981, indicate that viewers who watched religious programs went up by two million. The increase brings the total viewing audience back to the 22 million mark that syndicated religious programs enjoyed in 1976.

# Non-cooperating church property must revert

WINCHESTER, Tenn. (BP)—A Franklin county judge has ruled the property of Bethel Baptist Church, Estill Springs, Tenn., should revert to the Executive Board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention because of the church's "breach of the trust."

Chancellor Earl H. Henley of the Franklin County Chancery Court issued his memorandum opinion Aug. 5 to settle a 1981 lawsuit concerning the property of the church (formerly Paynes Baptist Church). The lawsuit, which was heard July 29-30, 1981, was brought by members and former members of the church, charging that the present congregation does not fulfill a provision of the deed which requires the church "to adhere to, maintain, and propagate the doctrines, faith and practices of Missionary Baptist churches to cooperate with the local Baptist Association, Tennessee Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention."

## Home Board appoints Jollys to Washington

Charles and Dorothy Jolly, natives of Okolona, Miss., were appointed by the Home Mission Board Aug. 4 to serve in the Seattle, Wash., area, where he will serve as director of church extension in the Puget Sound Baptist Association, of the Northwest Baptist Convention.

Before their move to Seattle, the Jollys had served 4½ years in the Waikiki Baptist Church, Honolulu, Hawaii, which became self-supporting with help from Mississippi Baptists via the Mississippi Baptist Foundation.

As chairman of Hawaii Baptists' missions sub-committee, Jolly had a part in Hawaii Baptists' sponsorship of a new work in American Samoa—the Happy Valley Baptist Church. (Gena Villamu, wife of the Happy Valley pastor, Ray Villamu, is a graduate of Blue Mountain College.)

Jolly reports that the first mission opportunity he found in Seattle was with a group of 22 Samoans (related to and recommended by the Happy Valley Baptist Church, but he did not learn of the connection until a first meeting a Samoan home). The group has asked to be a part of Southern Baptist life, he said. There are around 3,500 Samoans in the Seattle area, he added.

The Jollys' new address is 230 South, 317th Place, Federal Way, Washington 98003.

## ACTS and TelNet



Denney Jones

(Continued from page 1)  
mission of the Southern Baptist Convention. His division has the primary responsibility of working directly with churches who are involved or interested in being involved in a radio and television ministry.

In addition, he works directly with the national ACTS board in helping to establish cable affiliates from the network. Because of the vast numbers of churches who now televise, and particularly those on cable, Jones has been developing materials to assist in the training of volunteers to work in church related television ministries.

The session on Baptist TelNet will be led by Joe Denney, manager of Telecommunications at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Denney has been with the Sunday School Board since 1963 in various responsibilities including Research Services Department, Broadman Divisions; supervisor, Supplies and Audiovisuals, Broadman, before moving to his present position.

These meetings are being coordinated for Mississippi Baptists by Leon Emery, Church Administration and Pastoral Ministries department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Farrell Blankenship, general manager of Cable 6 Television, First Church, Hattiesburg.

## Emergency medicine week promoted

MEMPHIS—Baptist Memorial Hospital will use a seminar, tour, demonstration and display during the week of Sept. 12-18 to emphasize Emergency Medicine Week.

The three-day emergency medicine seminar for health care professionals, featuring nationally recognized specialists, will open on Sept. 16 in the Frank S. Groner Auditorium.

On Sept. 18, the day the seminar closes, the general public may tour the hospital's emergency department between 10 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., William A. Falvey, seminar program director and associate medical director of the emergency department, said.

The tours are open to persons 12 and older and the number of tours will be influenced by patient volume and availability of emergency department personnel, the physician said.

The deed and original bylaws of the church contain a reversionary clause that if the church ceases to fulfill this condition the property will go to the group of members who do or will revert to the TBC Executive Board "to be used for church or mission purposes."

The Executive Board voted on Dec. 12, 1980, to respond to a request for support from the group which sought to regain the property and was also a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

At the July 1981 trial Henley repeatedly stated the case would be decided on the basis of legal documents, rather than doctrine or the exercise of religion.

Testimony revolved around what is necessary to be a "cooperating Southern Baptist church." The plaintiffs noted that the church had made no contributions to the association or any TBC or SBC cause since 1978, nor had any member attended any meeting or conference conducted by these groups. The defendants argued that these contributions or activities are not necessary to be considered a "Southern Baptist church."

# University church adopts Mindanao MANNA project

University Baptist Church in Hattiesburg has adopted a MANNA Project as part of that church's Mission Action Program's annual hunger emphasis, according to Mrs. Paul Van Zandt, Hunger Relief Coordinator.

Established by the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, MANNA means Ministering Aid to Needy Nations Abroad. University Baptist Church recently voted to underwrite the cost of a MANNA project in Mindanao, Philippines, where Harold Watson is an SBC missionary. Dan Watson, his son is youth director at UBC.

John R. Cheyne, senior consultant of human needs ministries at the Foreign Mission Board, describes MANNA projects in this way:

"Each month we receive requests for hunger and relief funds from the various mission fields around the world. The board acts as quickly as possible in meeting these needs. After funds are released, we attempt to itemize the smaller segments of the projects in order that groups wishing to become sponsors can underwrite 'bite-sized' pieces as desired. In this way, a group may sponsor something as small as \$50 or as large as several thousand dollars. Funds previously designated for such projects are then released for use in other hunger-related needs."

UBC has selected as a project the Barrio Kinuskusan, Mindanao, Philippines. This project will provide

## Parchman center could use some help

By Paul Harrell, director Mississippi Brotherhood department

The help of Baptist Men from across Mississippi is needed in the completion of the Equipping Center at Parchman.

Max Hodges, the local coordinator reports that materials and supplies are available for completing the projects.

"The spirit of interest and concern have activated the hearts of men who have donated various building materials."

Now is the time for other Baptist men to respond with construction teams of ten to twelve persons so that we may complete the building before the encroachment of inclement weather.

Volunteers are needed with the following skills—drywall, trim work, roofing, masonry, painting and finish carpentry.

Explore your interest and commitment to this mission project by contacting:

Max Hodges  
Box 646  
Moorhead, Miss. 38761  
Office: 246-8404  
Home: 887-2197

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# Smith resigns global outreach

James E. Smith, director of development for Global Outreach, which has its headquarters in Tupelo, has resigned his position with that organization.

As he announced his resignation, effective Sept. 15, Smith cited "irreconcilable differences with the organization because of the direction that Global Outreach has taken as it has gone away from church-related efforts in its missions endeavors."

Smith said he had no quarrel with the direction that Global Outreach has taken, "but it is not the direction that I wish to go in my ministry." He said that the organization seems to be moving toward being a missions agency in itself rather than a missions support organization.

Smith had been with Global Outreach for three years. Before that he was pastor of First Church, Houston, for three years and at First Church, Mendenhall for eight years.

During his tenure with Global Outreach Smith traveled all over the world. He cited as his most satisfying accomplishment the delivery and installation of a radio station in Honduras. He built the station at his home out of donated material before he took it to Honduras. He said the station is worldwide in its scope, and responses have been received from 37 nations.

Smith will be available for interim pastorates, supply work, Bible conferences, and missions addresses as he waits for new directions. He lives at 2629 Pemberton Ave., Tupelo 38801; phone, 842-7748.

"The prison population in the United States has risen to 357,043, the highest total since records have been kept, the Justice Department said. . . . The department said that between Jan. 1, 1981 and Sept. 30, 1981, the prison population had risen by 30,000 inmates. Almost all of the growth was in state prisons, as the federal prison population of 25,000 remained essentially the same. The prison population, roughly equivalent to the population of Peoria, IL, is well over the actual capacity of the prisons. Figures compiled by the Criminal Justice Institute in New York put the total U.S. prison capacity at about 291,000."—(THE TENNESSEAN, 2/22/82)

## AREA BROTHERHOOD LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

September 20, 1982

7:00 P.M.

Purpose: To train, inform, and equip Church Brotherhood Leadership

Target: Brotherhood Directors.  
Group: Baptist Men's Leadership, Royal Ambassador Leadership, Directors of Missions, Pastors and Church Staff

September 21, 1982

Brotherhood Department  
Paul Harrell, Director



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# Laurel pastor sent to Africa, and his daughter to Japan

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Warren and Joanah Rush were about to call their youngest daughter, Deborah, last summer when the phone rang.

It was Deborah. "Daddy, guess what happened," she blurted excitedly. "Freddy and I have surrendered to missions and we want to go to Japan."

"Oh really?" Rush replied. "Guess what happened on this end of the line." Already grandparents, the Rushes had just made the same decision—to become foreign missionaries.

Deborah, 26, and her husband, Freddy Davis, then pastor of Sabal Palm Baptist Church, Tallahassee, Fla., were appointed missionaries to Japan in December by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. They arrived in Tokyo April 15, two days after her parents were named Southern Baptist missionaries to Senegal, West Africa, at a service in Birmingham, Ala.

A 60-year-old Alabama native, Rush led Parkway Baptist Church in Tallahassee for 20 years as pastor before returning in 1978 to guide Bethlehem Baptist Church in Laurel, Miss., a congregation he had served in the mid-'50s.

Why mission service now? "We were thinking about what we wanted to do if the Lord let us retire," Rush says. "The first thing we thought of was to take off and start traveling. But the Lord spoke to us and said, 'That's nothing but selfishness.' With all the experience we've had in our ministry why put it on the shelf? So we decided we'd be volunteer missionaries."

Then they learned that the age limit for applying to the Foreign Mission Board's missionary associate program had been extended by a year to 60, making Rush eligible. Candidates for the associate program, which employs missionaries for renewable four-year terms, include applicants past the age of 45, the age limit for appointment as a career missionary.

The Rushes were the only grandparents named missionaries in Birmingham; the 31 other new missionaries

were closer to daughter Deborah's age. But the senior couple's energy and excitement left some of the younger crowd panting.

"People say I'm crazy, but don't blame me," states Rush. "We just put ourselves on the altar and said, 'Lord, we're here. We're available.' The Lord answers prayer, you know."

The pair will leave Mississippi this fall for three months of orientation in Pine Mountain Ga., before going to Senegal. The move marks a return to Africa for Rush, who spent the better part of two years in tanks, chasing Rommel's German desert fighters in North Africa during World War II.

He expects his Senegal assignment to be far happier. He'll lead the International Church of Dakar, an English-speaking congregation in the capital city of 800,000. An estimated 12,000-15,000 English-speaking people live in Dakar, including members of the diplomatic and business communities and students.

Rush dreams of becoming "something of a chaplain to Dakar," establishing relationships with diplomats, government officials and business leaders.

He's no stranger to public officials. As pastor at Parkway church in Tallahassee, Florida's capital, he dealt regularly with state legislators and city leaders. For 18 years he was chaplain to the Florida Highway Patrol, and for 10 years chaplain to the Tallahassee Police Department, counseling both officers and offenders. "I was able to get down to the nitty-gritty with the police," he says.

The Rushes got down "to the nitty-gritty" at home too, according to their missionary daughter. "They taught you to practice what you preach," Deborah says. "Everything that my parents preached to others, they did at home. They stressed that no matter what I did in life or what I wanted in life, Christ was always to come first."

The Rushes' three grandchildren as well as two of Rush's older brothers, ages 80 and 78, witnessed their appointment. "I'm the baby of the family," Rush says.

# Observer sees hope for more freedom in China

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A veteran observer of Christian work in Asia sees hope that a new Chinese constitution to be ratified this fall may increase religious freedom in China.

"What we hope for is a statement that would include not only the right to believe or not believe in religion, but also the freedom to share one's religious experience and the freedom of assembly for religious purposes," said George Hays, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director for East Asia and a former missionary to Japan.

Released in April for public debate before ratification, the new constitution would replace the one adopted in 1978, which allows Chinese citizens the right to believe or not believe in religion, but restricts public propagation of belief to atheism.

The section on freedom of religion in the new document declares that "no religious affairs may be dominated by any foreign country" and that "no one may use religion to carry out counter-revolutionary activities or activities that disrupt the social order, harm the health of citizens, or obstructs the educational system of the state."

Southern Baptist missionaries first entered China in 1846 and began more than a century of evangelistic, medical and educational work in the country, the Foreign Mission Board's first mission field. Some 600 Southern Baptist missionaries worked in China before communists gained control of the mainland in 1949 and forced out

foreign religious workers. Since the government-sanctioned reopening of some Chinese churches in the last few years, however, Bishop Ding Guangkon, Three Self leader and president of the New Chinese Christian Council, has welcomed limited contacts with western Christian leaders. He has received visitors ranging from the Archbishop of Canterbury to representatives of the National Association of Evangelicals. Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, accompanied the latter group to China in November and met with Ding.

A member of the constitutional revision committee, Ding had earlier requested that the reference to the right to propagate atheism in the 1978 constitution be deleted, leaving a simple statement of the right to believe or not believe in religion.

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## Seminary gets \$250,000

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla., has awarded Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary a \$250,000 challenge grant toward construction of the seminary's A. Webb Roberts Library.

Mabee's challenge is to raise, in cash and pledges, the entire \$4.6 million construction cost by Dec. 31.

Through the seminary's Vision/85 capital needs campaign \$3,577,532 had been raised by June 30.

The library, to be dedicated Oct. 19, has 100,000 square feet of floor space and nearly 600,000 volumes.

Mrs. Diane Minyard, Coldwater, Marshall; Mrs. Betty Norton, Coldwater, Marshall.

BROTHERHOOD LEADERSHIP ROYAL AMBASSADOR LEADERS AND COMMITTEEMEN: Johnny M. Williams, West McComb, Pike.

BROTHERHOOD LEADERSHIP BAPTIST MEN LEADERS: Johnny M. Williams, West McComb, Pike.

BROTHERHOOD LEADERSHIP PIONEER COUNSELORS: Johnny M. Williams, West McComb, Pike.

BROTHERHOOD LEADERSHIP CRUSADER COUNSELORS: Johnny M. Williams, West McComb, Pike.

MEDIA SERVICES: Mrs. Audrey K. Yates, Union, Smith.

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BAPTIST DOCTRINE: Kenneth R. McMillen, Byhalia, Marshall.

CHURCH MUSIC PRESCHOOL LEADERS: Greg Massey, Emmanuel, Grenada.

CHURCH MUSIC YOUNGER CHILDREN LEADERS: Greg H. Massey, Emmanuel, Grenada.

CHURCH MUSIC OLDER CHILDREN LEADERS: Greg H. Massey, Emmanuel, Grenada; Rhonda Carroll, First, Jackson.

CHURCH MUSIC YOUTH LEADERS: Greg H. Massey, Emmanuel, Grenada.

CHURCH MUSIC ADULT LEADERS: Greg H. Massey, Emmanuel, Grenada.

CHURCH MUSIC GENERAL OFFICERS: Greg H. Massey.

DEACON MINISTRY: J. B. Black, Calvary, Hinds-Madison.

# Brotherhood Leadership will have training time

Brotherhood leadership in Mississippi will have training opportunities during area conferences this month.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Brotherhood department is sponsoring nine area leadership conferences Sept. 20 and Sept. 21 to allow participants to attend one close to home.

The Sept. 20 conferences will be at the following churches: First, Coldwater; Calvary, Tupelo; North Greenwood, Greenwood; and Calvary, Starkville.

The Sept. 21 conferences will be at First, Brandon; Forest, Forest; Macedonia, Brookhaven; Collins, Collins; and First, Biloxi.

## August gifts are \$1,015,698

Mississippi Baptist churches sent a total of \$1,015,698 in August through the offices of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, according to an announcement from Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the MBCB.

This is an increase of \$207,023 over the 1981 August gifts to the Cooperative Program.

Total giving for 1982 is \$8,884,221. The 1982 budget pro rated at eight months would be \$9,280,333. This shows that there is a slight deficit as of Aug. 31 in the budget of \$396,112. The total 1982 budget is \$13,920,500. However, for these eight months, Mississippi Baptists have increased their giving over 1981 a total of \$839,899, a jump of 10.4 percent.

"The increase in giving this year over 1981 shows that Mississippi Baptists have their fingers on the pulse of Bold Mission Thrust," said Kelly.

## Rec Labs scheduled

Three Rec Labs sponsored by the church recreation department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, are scheduled for 1983. Lake Yale Baptist Assembly, near Leesburg, Fla., is the site of the first Lab Jan. 3-8. The second Lab will be Jan. 24-29 at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center, and the third will be Oct. 24-28 at Lake Barkley State Park, near Cadiz, Ky. Chester Swor, professor emeritus at Mississippi College, will be the worship leader at Lake Yale and Glorieta labs.

## World needs gifts climb

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptist giving to worldwide human needs climbed to \$2,124,719 in the first six months of 1982 while the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board allocated \$3,262,263 for world relief in the same period.

The figures show a 34 percent increase in giving over the first half of 1981 and a 129 percent increase in allocations. Allocations so far almost equal the year's total for 1981 and reflect Foreign Mission Board efforts to speed use of relief gifts, which have risen dramatically in recent years and built an accumulation of unspent funds.

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# THANKS TO YOU, Mississippi Baptists and the WMU



## We're loving America's hurts and pains away!

The Home Mission Board thanks you for joining us as we reach out to love the unlovely, touch the untouchable and help the helpless. The 1981 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering was the highest offering ever received, amounting to \$18,539,913. Mississippi Baptists gave a record total of \$1,114,587.

We also express our appreciation to the Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood—nationwide, statewide, in associations and in local churches—for supporting and promoting this offering. But more important, for exemplifying that spirit of sacrificial giving.

These ten Mississippi churches gave the highest total amount to the 1981 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering:

1. First Road Baptist Church
2. First Baptist Church
3. Alta Woods Baptist Church
4. Broadmoor Baptist Church
5. Morrison Heights Baptist Church
6. First Baptist Church
7. First Baptist Church
8. First Baptist Church
9. First Baptist Church
10. Fairview Baptist Church

These ten Mississippi churches with 25 or more resident members showed the highest per capita giving:

1. Center Ridge Baptist Church
2. Berwick Baptist Church
3. Shiloh Baptist Church
4. New Hope Baptist Church
5. Mission Hill Baptist Church
6. Union Hill Baptist Church
7. Learned Baptist Church
8. Oak Grove Baptist Church
9. Enterprise Baptist Church
10. Mantee Baptist Church

You still have a chance to ease someone's pain. Funds are still being received for the 1982 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

\*Figures based on Church Uniform Letters and state convention records.

Cleanliness is indeed next to godliness.—John Wesley

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## Editorials . . .

## Missions is missions in Mississippi

"State missions" is an adequate and accurate concept for the annual Margaret Lackey Offering that will accompany the season of prayer scheduled for Sept. 12 to 15. About a third of the total will go to new missions in Mississippi.

The goal for the 1982 Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering is \$375,000. About one-third of that total, or \$124,000, is for new missions.

Because of the nature of the other items that are a part of the state missions budget, the new missions item is the cushion in the package. That is, the total new missions item is not funded unless the total goal of \$375,000 is reached. This is an excellent reason for suggesting that the total goal for the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions is one that is vital.

Other areas of witnessing to the lost in Mississippi will be funded by other items in the Margaret Lackey budget. The list has been run in the Baptist

Record in the last three issues, but it would be worthwhile to mention those items covered again. They represent efforts to find the lost in our own state and do something about their condition.

Are the lost in Mississippi any better off than the lost in Indonesia? Of course not! We do well when we get ready to give so that the lost in Indonesia might hear the gospel. And the same holds true for the lost in Japan and Surinam and Argentina and Paraguay and Uruguay and Nigeria and about 90 other foreign nations. But the need is every bit as great next door or maybe even in our own households.

We are the missionaries in Mississippi. We send others to Indonesia, Japan, and so forth; but there is nobody to send to Mississippi. We are already here, and it is up to us. We must do it. There is nobody else.

The money is of great importance. There are items for developing boys at Central Hills, for providing a witness

to girls at Garaywa, for special ministries to National Baptists and Indians, for a ministry at Parchman, for church building aid and for supplements to pastors' salaries, and for mission awareness. There is also an item for disaster relief, though the target of this ministry is more relief than witnessing. But the efforts at providing relief also provide an outstanding witness.

The theme for 1982, however, suggests more than giving. It is "Let us go . . . and see . . ." The challenge is to do more than sit comfortably but idly by but also to do our part by reaching in our pockets. It is to go, and it is to see. And as we go and see, how can we help but provide a witness where it is needed? This is part of being a missionary.

But there is still another element to the total picture, and it is the most important of all. This is the State Mission Season of Prayer, and prayer is the main ingredient of the state missions

needs. Without the input of prayer, all of the output of money and witnessing would be futile. Without prayer we could not give enough money to be effective. With prayer we cannot fail to give enough to be effective.

We are well into Bold Missions. There are only 18 years left in this century. Our part is to make the gospel available to everyone in Mississippi by the end of the century. Actually, we were supposed to have that done by this year; and it is confirmed that just about everybody in Mississippi could hear the gospel in some way if he wanted to. We haven't been particularly bold, however, in trying to attract his attention.

Whether or not we have failed to meet a 1982 goal by one definition or another, the fact remains that there are a million lost people in Mississippi.

We must give it all we've got. We must be particularly bold in giving, going, and praying.



## Wolfe visits BSSB

## "Where we can't question, we're in deep trouble"

By Linda Lawson  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptists must put aside philosophical differences, accept diversity that is inevitable in a 13.8-million-member denomination, and begin to trust each other again, according to the president of the Southern Baptist Pastors Conference.

Fred Wolfe, pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., spent Aug. 23-24 in informal dialogue with Sunday School Board personnel. The visit was a follow-up to conversations earlier in the summer between Wolfe and Morton Rose, vice president for church programs and services, about the need for improved communication within the denomination.

Wolfe believes current divisions center primarily in philosophical differences about worship, how to carry out the mission of the local church and what evangelism is—not the Bible. He is confident major differences over the Bible were resolved at the 1981 Southern Baptist Convention in Los Angeles when Herschel Hobbs affirmed that "truth without any mixture of error" in the "Baptist Faith and Message" statement referred to the entire Bible. Hobbs, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, chaired the group which drafted the statement of faith adopted in 1963.

"We didn't vote on the Bible at New Orleans and I'm glad," Wolfe said. "I believe 95 percent of us believe the Bible," he said. "I don't think we have to have the same methods or forms of worship or evangelism. We've got to

start trusting each other again. We do have different philosophies and methods, but we always have."

Wolfe said he believes others could benefit from a visit to the Sunday School Board. "Bring people in," he urged several members of the board's administrative staff. "They'll ask some hard questions, but you've got the answers. You have absolutely nothing to hide. You're trying to be objective, fair and to present all sides. I see that."

On biblical issues about which Southern Baptists differ, such as the Second Coming, Wolfe said he does feel there is a need to "present both points of view just as strongly."

To build bridges of communication, Wolfe said, "Anything we can do we need to do. We need the freedom to express feelings without being labeled a troublemaker. We need to be able to question anything that needs to be questioned as long as we do it constructively and in the right spirit. Anytime we get to the place where we can't question things we're in deep trouble," he said.

(Lawson writes for the BSSB.)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matt. 6:33). God should be first in our lives. All our efforts on material possessions should take second place if we have God first in our lives. He will lead us into the fulfillment of his will and show us our true goals to follow.—Lena Scott Price

Miss Mississippi, a Baptist and a 1982 graduate of William Carey College, is in Atlantic City this week. Her goal and her dream—to be crowned Miss America next Saturday night.

On the night of July 17, when Dianne Evans, 22, won the Vicksburg pageant, she said, "I plan to start tomorrow morning and work as hard as I can." That's what she did for the next six weeks, while staying at the home of her traveling companion, Megan (Mrs. Kurt) Schrock, on Windy Lake Drive in Vicksburg.

The morning I saw her, she had dressed for a swimming pool visit to improve her tan (which I thought superb already) and was wearing sandals, plaid shorts, and a white sunblouse with narrow shoulder straps. How can she glow with such dynamic energy and at the same time appear so serenely poised? I asked myself. At 5'8", weighing 124, she wanted to weigh 118, she said. Her curly brown hair is shoulder length. Black lashes fringe her expressive blue eyes.

For the competition, she wanted to continue intensive self-improvement. "Being mentally ready is hard work," she confided. (She was a Dean's List Scholar at Carey.) Nights she had been questioned in mock interviews about world politics, social issues, etc. For hours at a stretch she practiced singing. In Atlantic City, as she did in Vicksburg, she will sing "Stormy Weather." Keith Thompson and Philip Fortenberry, musicians and Carey grads, as her talent coaches arranged the music and advised her on its presentation.

To keep in shape physically, she has been jogging a little and swimming a lot (she majored in P.E.). She watches her diet (avoids carbohydrates and sweets, eats fruit, broiled or boiled meat, some vegetables, drinks a little milk).

Afternoons in Vicksburg she and Megan often went shopping, to select her wardrobe for Atlantic City, or to Scott's Hair Affair for hairdos and manicures. Kurt Schrock, a dentist, checked her teeth, and an ophthalmologist checked her vision.

"Cheryl Prewitt Blackwood's pep talk meant a lot to me," she said. "She told me, 'You have what it takes to win. You must be spiritually ready, as well, for that is an important part of this competition, too.'"

From the age of 2, Dianne has liked



Dianne Evans

to perform. Her mother, Mrs. Jack Evans of Taylorsville, recalls that she liked to stand on a table or platform and sing. If anybody clapped, she'd go on and on. Soon she started watching Miss America on television and playing "judge." During her first pageant at age 8 she nearly "bombed out," she remembers, for she messed up her song and ran out crying. But she "thought positive" even then and quickly said, "I'll do better next time." At age 10 she won in Little Miss competition. In years since she has been winner or near winner in numerous pageants, always singing. "With every one I learned a lot, and improved and grew a little," she said. She has never taken voice lessons, though she learned to play the flute and the piano, and took dancing lessons.

"My mother called me her miracle baby," Dianne said. Her mother was 38 when she was born, and her father was 46—her two brothers 16 and 10. A baby sister, born five years earlier, had died because of RH factor complications. Dianne had the same type problem at birth, plus yellow jaundice, and required blood transfusions and a long hospital stay. "I believe the faith my mother had is what made me survive. And because I did, she always felt like the Lord had something special for me to do."

At 8, she made a profession of faith in Christ during a revival at Summerland Baptist Church, led by a student team from William Carey College. Years later, after she'd received a basketball scholarship at Carey and enrolled there, she learned that Richard Davis, a member of that student team was youth director at Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg. Consequently, she joined that church.

Can beauty pageants be related to Christian living? Dianne thinks so. In the Vicksburg pageant she led a devotional time with other contestants, reading Scripture selections (one she likes is John 14:13-14) and leading in prayer. "We were all praying for the same thing—to win, but losing helps to build character," she said. "As Miss America, I could share my faith with many. And I want to share it, wherever I am."

In future, she would like to have a television show of her own, or do something else in the performing arts field. "Or I might go to California to be Tom Lester's agent. He's offered the job," she added. "I hope some day to marry and have kids." Her special boy friend, Ford Bowlin, Carey student from San Antonio, "knows he must take a back seat for now," she said.

Ralph Noonkester, president of William Carey College, said to assembled students and faculty, "There is none other whose accomplishments please us more than Dianne Evans. She represents the spirit of William Carey College. No one could make a better Miss Mississippi, or a better Miss America." I agree.

## Fact-finding . . .

(Continued from page 1)  
of tension and civil conflict. "Missionaries have our role to play in easing and ending the conflict," Ragland said. "We believe through our dedication and prayer and through the intercessory prayer of Baptists in America God will mediate to us the grace by which we can achieve peace in this bloodstained and tearstained nation." (Duann Kier writes for CLC.)

## Letters To The Editor

## Missions in Surinam

Editor:  
Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for your prayers for us and the Lord's work here in Surinam. Your prayers mean a lot to us, and we feel the effects of your praying. Since the organization of our church, Grace Baptist, on Jan. 31, we have baptized 10 new Christians and received four others by letter, so on July 26 we had doubled our membership. God has really moved in the hearts and lives of people as we have witnessed and you have prayed.

We have tried to keep careful records of contacts we have made and decisions that have been made. To date there have been 103 people who have come to know Jesus since we came to Surinam and began the work that God has called us to. We praise Him for calling us, empowering us, and using us in this land! We thank you for upholding us constantly in your prayers.

Another victory and a definite answer to your prayers and ours came Aug. 19, when we settled on a piece of

land as the future site for Grace Baptist Church. The property is just two streets over from our "house church" on Ramalaan. We feel that it is just what we need. It is in walking distance from our house and many of our other church members homes, and it is just one block off of one bus line and just six short blocks off of another bus line so that people who come by bus will find it convenient. God is so good!

We have hopes of acquiring temporary rental property close by to use until the church building can be built. Keep praying about this. We need this space before our Crusade beginning Oct. 3rd. Keep praying for our crusade, Oct. 3-25.

We count it a joy to be a part of what God is doing in Surinam.

James and Zelma Foster

## Thanks for ministry

Editor:  
As a Vietnam veteran I want to thank Southern Baptists in the United States and abroad.

First, thank you for providing chaplains to the armed forces. I met one in Vietnam. He baptized me in the Quang Tri River.

Second, I want to thank you for Baptist churches in America. During my last two years in the service, my wife and I joined one. This church was in North Carolina.

Next, thank you for the seminaries you provide through the Cooperative Program. New Orleans Seminary fed my soul for three years. God used these men to reveal himself to me in a new manner. Again, thank you for Baptist associations and associational missionaries. Today, as a Baptist minister, I travel the state of Georgia, working with Vietnam veterans. Thanks to the dedication of these associational missionaries and local pastors, more Vietnam veterans are meeting Jesus Christ. Thank you, Baptists, for introducing me to the various means of ministries.

If not for you Baptists I do not know what my life would be like today. But today I am blessed by God because you gave of your time, self, and money. You really believe the "Great Commission." As a Baptist I pray we never forget or lose such vision. What a great God we worship. What a great Savior

we accepted. What a great Spirit who transforms us.

Steve Kemp  
Vet Center  
Atlanta, Ga.

## Baptists in New York

Editor:  
Metro Baptist Church is a growing Southern Baptist church on the island of Manhattan. We are a family of Christians who love New York and enjoy living and working in America's largest city.

We became a church family because God called us into being and gave us a mission in the city. It is thrilling to see and experience the working of the living God in this glorious city. God is blessing our church. We are confident that God will continue to bless us as long as we are faithful to the message and mission entrusted to us.

We are writing to ask for your help. It is easy to move to NYC and get lost—intentionally or unintentionally. We're asking you to help us locate persons who live in the city who would be willing to identify themselves as Southern Baptists and work to help establish a strong Southern Baptist church in New York City.

If you know of such persons please send their name and address to:

Metro Baptist Church  
236 West 72nd Street  
New York, New York 10023

Thank you for your help. Keep us in your prayers. And if you are ever in the city, please do come visit with our church family.

W. Eugene Bolin, pastor

## McBride to Convention Board

Editor:  
Jackson County Baptist Association voted in executive session to congratulate Mississippi Baptists in choosing John McBride as director of the Cooperative Missions Department.

Brother McBride is a visionary man with expertise in many areas. His experiences of leadership along with his training have enriched him and equip-

ped him for his leadership role in the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. We are fully confident that God will work through him in a marvelous way.

We commend Mr. and Mrs. John McBride to our fellow Baptists in Mississippi and pledge to them our prayer support as he leads through the Cooperative Missions Department.

Howard Taylor, moderator  
Jackson County Baptist Association

## Thanks to William Carey

Editor:

Please allow me to use your column to thank the officials of William Carey College for inviting senior citizens to take non-credit courses at the coast campus. I am nearing the end of the second course, "Survey of the Old Testament." The other was "Survey of the New Testament." Mr. Walter Brown is doing an excellent job teaching these courses. I have found them to be very interesting, challenging, and inspirational. These courses have given me a greater appreciation for our New Orleans Seminary.

Senior citizens who are not Baptist in the classes have testified freely of the helpfulness of these courses.

Thanks again, William Carey, and thank you, Editor.

Lilly Pearl Blake  
Biloxi  
Thank you for this testimony.—

Editor

## Prayer on New Year's

Editor:

On July 4, 1982, Congressman Albert Lee Smith gave a message on II Chronicles 7:14, which moved me so much that I decided to do something about it.

I wrote Dr. Hudson Baggett, editor of *The Alabama Baptist*, a letter which he published and I have enclosed. I also wrote Dr. James Draper, president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

I am trying to get God's people to pray for an hour on Jan. 1, 1983, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for our coun-

try. Not saying that God is moved by any hour of prayer, but outwardly showing that we will pray daily and do what II Chronicles 7:14 says to do.

Gerald Homan  
Graysville, Ala.

## Stamps to Honduras

Editor:

Just a note to say, that after an extended furlough and the wait to be reassigned, Glenna and I are on our way to our new field of service in Honduras. We are quite happy and excited to be on our way at last. Our new assignment will be in field evangelism, church planting, and development.

For the first 10 months we will live in and serve in the area of La Ceiba on the Caribbean Coast. Afterward we will relocate in a department (state) in the interior of the country, hopefully in pioneer work. This year we are taking the place of Hoyt and Louise Roberts who have served in La Ceiba for several years. The Roberts and we were appointed as missionaries together on December 13, 1982.

We are aware many fellow Mississippi Baptists have a vital missions interest in Honduras due to their participation in work projects there in cooperation with our own Southern Baptist mission organization; some through their contacts with Landon Wilkerson in Puerto Lempira; and others through projects promoted by a missionary of the Baptist International Missions Incorporated, which is not connected with our Southern Baptist missions.

In the future a number of Mississippi Baptists will be visiting Honduras, most for missions involvement and many for personal pleasure. We want to let our friends and brethren in Christ know, we will be happy to see them if they should be in our area. Especially we would be glad to hear from them beforehand if possible.

Our mail address is Apartado 2, La Ceiba, Honduras, and our telephone number is 42-22-82. Could you pass this information on to anyone who may be interested?

Thank you for the attention you give to missions and missionary activities in the Baptist Record. It is very en-

couraging as well as informative.

With sincere regards,  
Stanley D. Stamps

## No censorship on Bush

Editor:

A Fundamentalist political magazine has recently published a totally erroneous accusation that the Radio and Television Commission practiced censorship by eliminating the speech of Vice-President George Bush from video tapes available to the churches. In truth, the speeches of all pre-convention and convention speakers including Mr. Bush are available in the way. Southern Baptists have always had them—on audio tape for \$4 per tape. Not one word of Mr. Bush's speech has been lost. Hundreds of these tapes have been distributed since the convention and can still be ordered.

Contrary to the article, as all Southern Baptists know, there has never been a "documentary of the events" (of the SBC) to show Baptists who were not able to come a visual record of the event.

No video tape of speakers has ever been provided. Contrary to accusations of political partisanship in that process, no video tape was provided when President Jimmy Carter spoke in Atlanta or when then Vice-President Gerald Ford spoke in Dallas or when President Ford spoke in Norfolk.

The Radio and Television Commission produced a one-hour evangelistic program of the Billy Graham rally for local churches to sponsor in their market. To expedite that process and lower the costs to the churches, all available tape stock was pressed into service including the "outtakes" or materials not used from the three hour service. Our sole purpose was to invite the lost to Christ through this effort. We are grateful to God that so far more than 7,600,000 households have had opportunity to receive the message of Christ through the program and reports have come of many coming to Christ.

I would appreciate your help in setting the record straight.

Jimmy R. Allen, president  
Radio and TV Commission

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# Soviet writer accused of "flirting with God"

BALTIMORE, Md. (EP)—A leading Soviet writer has come under sharp attack for suggesting ever so timidly that there might be a God. Anthony Barbieri, Jr., Moscow correspondent for the Baltimore Sun, reports that Vladimir A. Soloukhin, a famous Soviet poet and essayist who has been a member of the Communist Party for 30 years, expressed the view in a widely read literary journal last year that "in the Twentieth Century, there is no doubt for every reasonable person that a supreme reason exists in the world, in the universe, in life."

According to Barbieri, the suggestion, as mild as it was, runs counter to the official state theology of the Soviet Union—atheism—and won Soloukhin a scolding from no less a journal than *Kommunist*, the theoretical and political monthly of the Soviet Communist Party. There may be worse in store for the writer, since *Kommunist* complained about the frequency of "god-creating and mystic subjects" in Soloukhin's work.

Barbieri says the controversy is significant because Soloukhin is a well-known writer who, though he has had his share of disagreements with the authorities, has not fallen out of official favor. The fact that he has been

criticized in a high-level journal like *Kommunist* may be a warning to other writers and cultural figures whose opinions do not coincide with official communist doctrine.

In his essay, which appeared in the literary monthly *Nash Sovremennik* Soloukhin never uses the word "God" or discusses religion per se. Soloukhin says that to deny the existence of a higher reason would be to argue that such "complicated and precise organisms as a flower, a bird, a human being and, finally, a human brain, appeared at random—the result of a lucky, blind and unprogrammed combination of chemical elements. The

question is not whether a supreme reason exists, but whether it knows about me and has anything to do with me."

In reply, *Kommunist* ran several letters from readers offended by Soloukhin's suggestion that there may be other laws of scientific socialism. A corresponding member of the prestigious Soviet Academy of Sciences said he is "surprised when there slips into magazines religious-mystic ideas and moods which are deeply alien to the materialistic world outlook that dominates our country." The scientist, identified as M. Rutkevich, accused Soloukhin of "flirting with God."

## Just for the Record



Forty-one children of First Baptist Church, Pearl, went camping recently at Holmes State Park, Durant. Under direction of Stanley Barnett, pastor, they took part in Bible study (pictured), hiking, skating, and swimming. Sponsors included Jim Lott, music; Ellen Watkins and Kellie Morehead, worship service; Mrs. Lonnie Long, devotional director; Martha McDonald and W. D. McAlpin, crafts directors; Karen Watkins, Stacey Morehead, Ken Long, and Mrs. Estelle Barnett, counselors. 8/26



WINNERS of the fifth annual Mississippi Baptist High School Boys Slowpitch Softball Tournament are: first place, Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo, pictured; second place, Raymond Church; third place, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. The tournament was held July 30-31 at Van Winkle Baptist Church, Jackson. Nine churches were represented. This event is sponsored jointly by Coca Cola Bottling Co. of Jackson and Van Winkle Baptist Church. Tournament director is Charles Nikolic, activities director at Van Winkle. John G. Brock is pastor.



THE TEEN ENSEMBLE from GRANDVIEW CHURCH, PEARL, recently presented the musical "Imagination" at Bethel Baptist Church, Pearl and at Midway Baptist Church, Jackson. They also did part of the musical in Cook Springs, Ala. Mrs. Lynn Weems, minister of music, directed the presentations. Wade Chappell is pastor.



First Church, Eupora, recognized 11 members for two years perfect attendance in Sunday School. Pictured with the pastor, William S. Stewart, on the left, and the Sunday School director, Jack Turner, at right, are the following: left to right, 1st row, Dalton Middleton, Jonathan Gibson, Suzanne Stephens, Cheryl Miller, Stephanie Stephens; 2nd row, Mrs. Martha Rogers, Mrs. Sarah Miller, Mrs. Ailene Wells, Wilton Miller, and Carol Herrod; not pictured, Lee Ann Brown.

## Continued ban asked on liquor broadcast ads

By Duann Kier  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A Tennessee battle over advertising hard liquor on radio and television could provide a preview of future struggles in other states.

Jerry M. Self, public affairs and Christian life consultant with the Tennessee Baptist Convention, and Ronald D. Sisk, director of program development for the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, are opposing a move by the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters (TAB) to win permission for such advertising.

The Baptists have asked the Alcohol Beverage Commission of Tennessee (ABC) to let stand a ruling prohibiting the holders of liquor-by-the-drink permits from advertising alcoholic beverages on radio and television.

According to Self and Sisk, the prohibition is consistent with the National Association of Broadcasters Code of Good Practice which forbids the ad-

vertising of distilled spirits by member stations. Enforcement problems, stated by the TAB, concerning technological advances such as super satellite stations feeding cable systems and individual receivers should not be used as excuses for lowering advertising standards, they said. (Kier writes for the CLC.)

### Mindanao churches soar

Mindanao, Philippines — Baptists in Mindanao, the large southern island in the Philippines, are making faster progress than expected in reaching their goal of 1,085 churches by the end of 1985. Since the goal was set in 1981, 151 new churches have begun, representing 22 percent of the total projection. With 545 churches to date, the convention already has more than the 494 churches expected by the end of 1982.

Thursday, September 9, 1982

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## 1st, Ocean Springs, to celebrate 150th anniversary

First Baptist Church, Ocean Springs, has designated Sept. 12 as a day of celebration of its 150 years of ministry. Special activities are planned for the morning service, which will be followed by dinner on the grounds, states the pastor, Paul D. Aultman. The church was organized Sept. 8, 1832, sixty years

before Ocean Springs was incorporated as a city. At left is the sanctuary built in 1909, after a 1907 hurricane destroyed church facilities; at center is the remodeled 1909 sanctuary; at right is the present sanctuary (which lost its roof to Hurricane Frederic).

## Sorrells fund lags; SBC help sought

WASHINGTON (BP) — In spite of wide publicity within the Southern Baptist Convention, a special fund set up to care for the long-term medical needs of disabled Mission Service Corps volunteer Bob Sorrells has attracted less than one-third the amount needed.

C. Vinton Koons, who is administering the fund through the D.C. Baptist Convention Foundation, said that as of July 15, only \$46,000 had been received. He estimates that \$150,000-200,000 is needed, investment interest from

which would provide Sorrells with approximately \$25,000 a year.

Sorrells, 30, was injured in an automobile accident April 15, 1980, less than a week after he arrived in Nigeria, where he was to serve one year as an accountant. The Southern Baptist MSC program is designed to provide an opportunity for short-term missionary service overseas or in the U.S.

The D.C. Baptist Convention Foundation is located at 1100 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Suite 412, Washington, D.C. 20036.

## Missionary News

Sam and Ginny Cannata, missionaries to the Sudan, are in the States on furlough (address: 817 Speight, Apt. 221, Waco, Texas 76706). She is from Mississippi.

George and Hilda Cowser, missionaries to Brazil, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Caixa 488, 29000 Vitoria, ES, Brazil). Son of Southern Baptist missionaries, he was born in Brazil, and also lived in Goodman, Miss., and Waco, Texas, while growing up.

James and Zelma Foster, missionaries to Surinam, recently received 35-year service pins from the Foreign Mission Board. It was presented by Bill Graves, associate missions director in the Caribbean area. The Fosters were appointed in 1947 to Kunshan, China. After the communists moved into China, the Fosters moved to the Philippines, where they remained for 29 years. They will retire in 1983. The pin has a map of the world on it, plus the number of years of service—and in their case a small emerald at the top. The emerald is for those having served 35 years.

Antonina Canzoneri, missionary to the Bahamas, was recently presented a pin representing 35 years of service in foreign missions in Nigeria and the Bahamas. She may be addressed at Box 6331, Nassau, Bahamas. Born in Inurria 1113°, C. Madrid (16), Espana. They left the staff of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Aug. 1. In Spain they will seek to establish a ministry to college students.

Thomas and Marilyn Nabors, Baptist representatives to Israel, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: Box 242, Smithville, Miss. 38870).

Stanley and Glenna Stamps, missionaries, have transferred from Nicaragua to Honduras (address: Apartado 2, La Ceiba, Honduras).

Shirley Jackson, missionary to Brazil, has arrived in the States for furlough (address: 4 Elm St., Natchez, Miss. 39120).

William Douglas and Betty Van Deventer, missionaries to Kenya, are the parents of Kimberly, born July 27. They may be addressed at Box 82947, Mombasa, Kenya. Born in Corpus Christi, Texas, he lived in Clinton and Goodman, Miss. while growing up.

Thomas and Hazel Barron, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the States on furlough (address: 407 N. 38th Ave., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401).

Malcolm and Jean Nichols, missionary associates to Korea, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o Richard Donk, 821 S. Franklin; Quincy, Fla. 32351). She was born in Meridian.

Terry and Kathy Sharp, who were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in July as missionaries to Spain will after Sept. 8 be at Missionary Orientation Center, Box 535, Pine Mountain, Ga. 31822. Then after Christmas they and their daughter Rebekkah will live in Madrid: Mateo Inurria 1113°, C. Madrid (16), Espana. They left the staff of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, Aug. 1. In Spain they will seek to establish a ministry to college students.

Major and June McDaniel, missionaries on furlough from Korea, are living at 818 Main St., Natchez, Miss. 39120.

## Four cities will host "Invitation to Life"

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Four cities have been chosen to host evangelistic crusades for "Invitation to Life," a television program produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission (RTVC).

Louisville, Ky.; Denver, Colo.; Morgan City, La. and Ferguson, Mo., were selected as sites for crusades during the next few months. Revival services will be held four nights in each location and taped by the RTVC to produce 16 programs for weekly broadcast on the proposed American Christian Television System (ACTS).

Similar crusades were filmed last year in Phoenix, Ariz., and Magnolia, Ark., and the programs were test-marketed in five U.S. cities.

As with last year's programs the upcoming "Invitation" crusades will feature the preaching of John Bisagno, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, Larry Black, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., will again lead the music.

The "Invitation to Life" program, while resembling other TV evangelistic services, is unique in its use of short feature segments, or vignettes, about church members and activities.

## Fire and hurricane don't stop author

After 43 years of research and three separate manuscripts, Theo N. (Mrs. Beason P.) Breland has published the



Bible Tree Reference Book. She began the project in 1939. Fire destroyed her first work; Hurricane Camille destroyed the second. Mrs. Breland is a member of First Baptist Church, Long Beach.

She said that the purpose of the book is "to present the full scope of the Bible in a short time." Illustrated with a fold-up chart, the book discusses major biblical personalities, beginning with Adam and Eve and ending with Jesus Christ. It contains "The Bible Tree Outline" which she calls "a

road map to the Bible," or chart of the periods of time sometimes called dispensations. One chapter is devoted to archaeological discoveries in the Holy Land and another to fulfillment of prophecy.

A resident of Gulfport, Mrs. Breland has taught in Texas and Mississippi. She recently organized the Bible Tree Foundation, a non-profit evangelistic association, to teach the Bible and distribute religious materials. She said she is available for presenting her five-hour seminar, "A Journey Through the Bible," in which she uses maps, charts, and slides of the Holy Land, where she has traveled extensively. She offers these seminars to churches without charge, and may be contacted in care of The Bible Tree Foundation, Rt. 11, Box 34, Gulfport, Miss. 39503 (phone 601-832-1457).

## Spain Mission elects Lee V-P

Drew (Jerry) Gunnells, former Mississippian, now pastor of Springhill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., was the speaker at the annual meeting of the Baptist Mission to Spain, held at Montgo, Denia (Alicante), Spain, July 16-23.

Attended by 28 career missionaries, their children, two journeymen and several volunteers serving in Spain, the meeting afforded an opportunity for worship, study, business and diversion.

New officers were elected: president, Larry Henry; vice-president, P. D. Lee, a Mississippian; recording secretary, Karen Quimby; corresponding secretary, Dennis Hale; treasurer, Tom Baker. Members at large are Charles Whitten and Mike Gonzalez.



Lee



## Newhebron Church sends mission team to Wyoming

A group of 37 from Newhebron Baptist Church, Newhebron, went on a bold mission trip July 12-16 to southeast Wyoming. The church had budgeted \$4,000 for their expenses. The group worked in First Baptist Church, Hanna and 38 miles away in First Baptist Church, Saratoga.

In Hanna, one group of men did finishing work in the six-year-old church building. They built stairs to the baptistry and installed better lighting in the educational basement area. The ladies and young people conducted four Backyard Bible Clubs each morning in the town of Hanna, and also two clubs in Elk Mountain (a small town 15 miles from Hanna with no church). The total enrollment was 65 with an average attendance of 56 children for the week.

During the afternoons, the ladies and young people conducted surveys in Hanna compiling information from over 400 homes.

Each evening revival services were held, with Earl Clark, pastor at Newhebron, and Rick Voorhees, minister of music, Newhebron, leading.

Members of the team gave testimonies, presented special music, and rang handbells during each service. There were six professions of faith and one transfer of letter to the Hanna church. One young man from Newhebron, Ronald Haynes, accepted the call to the gospel ministry during the revival.

After the revival services, members of the team had Bible study and fellowship with the young people of Hanna.

Another group of men traveled each day to Saratoga where they did construction work on an old shop building that the Saratoga church had purchased to remodel into a permanent church building. For the past six years, the church has been meeting in a small mobile unit. Because of the lack of funds in Saratoga, the Newhebron Church gave an additional \$4,000 to buy the materials for the mission team to use during their week of work.

Any church or group wanting more information about coordinating such a mission trip or interested in viewing this mission presentation, may contact Earl Clark, pastor at Newhebron.

## Church-related colleges offset federal aid cuts

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Despite reduction of federal student assistance programs such as the Pell Grant (formerly the Basic Education Opportunity Grant), church-related colleges are finding ways to assist students wishing to attend Christian institutions.

A recent survey, "Recent Trends in Financial Aid to Students Attending Independent Colleges and Universities," by the National Institute of Independent Colleges and Universities (NICCU) shows a decline of almost 18 percent in Pell Grant fundings to students attending independent colleges.

The report also indicated an almost 10 percent decrease in the number of Pell Grant recipients at these institutions.

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director/treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Education Commission and a member of the secretariat of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), notes the report does provide a ray of hope for the student desiring a Christian education at a Baptist school. "The NICCU's survey has shown a major increase in institu-

tional need-based aid," Walker said. The percentage of recipients of institutional aid rose from 45 percent in 1979-80 to 55 percent in 1981-82 and the average institutional award increased by 19 percent, from \$1,196 to \$1,424 in the same period.

## Perry County plans world missions confab

A world missions conference will be held in Perry Baptist Association Sept. 25-Oct. 3. All 17 of the association's churches will take part, according to a report from Joe Strahan, pastor of First Church, Beaumont.

Missionaries who will speak are: Ervin K. Brown, director of missions, Northwest Association, Mississippi; L. Ray McKinney, Gallup, N. M.; Charles Williams, Toledo, Ohio; Thomas O. Barron, Indonesia; John Merritt, Germany; Karl Wallace, Peru; and John L. Perkins, France.

B. G. Smith is director of missions, Perry County.



## Star Baptist Men roof widow's home

Baptist Men of Star Church in their first year of organization have completed three major projects. They painted the inside of the chapel at the Baptist Children's Village, ran a water line to the home of a woman who is a member of the Star Church, and installed a new roof on the home of a widow, another member at Star. Those who did the roofing were Dave Nicholson, Ralph Little, Lavon Byrd, David Dyess, Phil White, Larry Miller, Eric McNair, Ersie Finch, Ross Winstead, Roland Walker, Joey Little, Jerry Cooper, R. C. Rice, Charles Lewis, Jimmy Lewis, and Jimmy Harrington, pastor.

## Names In The News...

PINEVILLE, Ky. (BP)—H. Leo Edleman, 71, former president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Georgetown (Kentucky) College and Criswell Center for Biblical Studies (Dallas) has been named distinguished professor of Old Testament at Clear Creek Baptist School in Pineville.

He was a Southern Baptist missionary to Palestine (now Israel), 1935-41. The Morgantown, Miss., native is a graduate of Mississippi College and holds master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary.

Susan Long was recognized in a special service during Wednesday night

prayer meeting recently at First Baptist Church, Pearl. She was presented Badge 3 for her achievements in Girls in Action. Her mother, Mrs. Thomas Long, a GA leader, presented the award.

Bob R. Agee, special assistant to the president for institutional planning and vice president for religious affairs at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., has been named president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla.

Patrick O. Copley has been elected the fourth president of Missouri Baptist College. Copley, 48, is a native of Seneca, Mo. Since 1967 he has been dean and professor in the school of education and psychology at South-

west Missouri State University. He received a BA in 1958 from Grand Canyon College and earned an MA in 1959 and an EdD in 1966 from Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz. Missouri Baptist College is an accredited, four-year liberal arts college with an enrollment of approximately 500.

Immanuel Church, Cleveland, will honor its pastor, James A. Hurt, and Mrs. Hurt, with an open house and reception Sept. 12, from 2 to 5 p.m., on his 25th anniversary as their pastor.

Lawrence E. "Bud" Dawson, on Sept. 1 assumed the duties of pastoral counseling resident at East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian. For the past year and one half, he has been pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church in Folsom, La. He is available for pulpit supply in the Meridian area when not conducting worship services in the hospital chapel. He may be contacted at Rt. 3, Box 15-B, Meridian, Ms. 39301, or, call (601) 693-7026.

Damascus Church, Copiah County has ordained Clarence Foster as deacon.

MEMPHIS—Robert S. Gordon, assistant vice president at Baptist Memorial Hospital, was advanced to membership status in the American College of Hospital Administrators at its 48th Convocation Ceremony Aug. 29 in Atlanta. Born in Louisville, Ky., Gordon serves as administrative liaison for the budget, mail service, hotel and Business Office as well as the departments of admissions, data processing, engineering, risk management and security.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Leake County, has called Paul Jordan as pastor. He began work there Aug. 15. A native of Leake County, he is a graduate of Clarke College and Mississippi College. His last pastorate was Gallman Church, Copiah County.

Daryl Randall has been called as the minister of youth and music at Hernando Baptist Church, DeSoto County. He began his ministry on August 9th.

Steve Horsley has been called as minister of music/youth at Trinity Baptist Church, West Point, Clay County.

Jacinto Church (Alcorn) has called Charles Farmer as pastor.

Carl Miller has resigned as pastor of First Church, Pass Christian.

Arlington Church, Lincoln County, has called Jim Jeffreys as pastor.

Lee Rodgers has resigned as pastor of Damascus Church, Hazlehurst to accept the call as pastor of Benton Baptist Church, Benton. Lee is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

David Thornton has accepted a call to become pastor of Calvary Church, Clarke Association, in Quitman. He moved from Hopewell Baptist Church, Franklin County. On Sunday night, Aug. 15, his family was welcomed with a Calvary pounding.

H. L. Barnes has accepted the pastorate of Oak Hill Baptist Church, totoc County, and has moved into the pastorate.

Bobby Caples, who has been serving as pastor of Turnpike Church, Pontotoc County, has been called as pastor.

Bobby Clark has resigned as pastor of Zion Church (Pontotoc County) to become pastor at Tchula Church.

Tommy Purvis, pastor at Bethel (Lincoln) has resigned.

Dennis Dunn is new pastor of Union Hall Baptist Church, Lincoln County.

Georgetown Church has called Stanley McGlamery as pastor. He is a recent graduate of New Orleans Seminary.

People seldom improve when they have no model but themselves to copy after.—Oliver Goldsmith

The toughest form of mountain climbing is getting out of a rut.

## Devotional

### Use Paul's measuring rod

By Beverly Tinnin, pastor, First, Meridian

We don't have a mail box on the street in front of our house. We grew tired of replacing it on a post just to have it "blown away" by night riders. On a recent rainy night someone drove a car on lush green lawns of homes in our neighborhood leaving unsightly tire marks.

This calls to my mind a newspaper article I read somewhere back. Darrell Royal was football coach at the University of Texas at that time. An otherwise perfect season was marred by a loss to the conference cellar dweller Texas Christian University. Coach Royal moaned, "TCU is like a cockroach; it isn't what they eat or take away. It's what they fall in and ruin."

This humorous remark concerning a football team could be correctly directed to the real "la cucaracha," Satan who spoils all he can for the sake of spoilage; no useful purpose is served. His helpers do the same thing.

By critical remarks directed toward the church, its members or its work the same sort of destruction is engendered. The one spoiling is not helped, the best interest of the Kingdom is not served, God is not pleased. Dereliction of duty in attendance, stewardship, service to the church helps none but hurts many. Unforgiveness, envy, and unkindness are destructive to the happiness of the offender and the offended. The solution is to gauge all thoughts, words, and actions by Paul's fine measuring rod. Is it true, honest, just, pure, lovely or of good report?

## Bible Book

### True wisdom

By Gene Henderson, pastor, Fairview, Columbus  
Psalms, 1, 37, 73

"Why do the wicked prosper while the righteous suffer?" The psalmist wrestled with the question as did Job of old. Is it any less perplexing to the godly today? The psalmist begins with the proposition that God is good to Israel (upright). He is good to the godly (pure heart). But when he looked around, circumstances contradicted his proposition. The wicked had abundance while the righteous suffered.

True wisdom concerning the contradiction with regard to the righteous and wicked is found in Psalms 1, 37, and 73. Psalm 1 affirms the perpetual resources and life of the righteous in contrast to the temporary state of the wicked. Psalm 37 assures the righteous that trust in the Lord will bring vindication; the wicked will be uprooted from the earth. Psalm 73 contains the focus passage for the study.

I. Distress of the psalmist (73:1-14)

If "true confession is good for the soul," the psalmist helped himself immensely through verses 2-3. The psalmist admitted to a crisis in his faith. His envy of the wicked, his desire to have what they seemed to have had led him almost to become like them. Materialism is no new temptation. The "things" of the world have been a favorite temptation of Satan. Consider the third temptation of Jesus (Mt. 4:8-11).

Like the psalmist, too often judgments are made by what is seen, which may be superficial and unreal. He described the wicked in 73:4-12. Their prosperity seemed devoid of any pain. They seemed to have no misery or troubles like other men (73:5). Abundance pursued them. They were gluttonous, arrogant, and insolent. Prosperity had deceived them that they lorded it over other men and even mocked God (73:6-9). Under the delusion that prosperity is security, the wicked scoffed at any thought of God's judgment upon them for their evil conduct (73:11).

Apparently many were influenced by the evil example of the wicked (73:10). Even the psalmist questioned whether it was profitable to serve God (73:13-14). Christians must guard against evaluating success by the yardstick of materialism. Jesus lived authentic, eternal life, but he never owned any property. A tomb was borrowed for his burial. Riches are not essential to success, and often they become a danger to spiritual vitality (Mk. 10:23-25).

II. Destiny of men (73:15-24)

As the psalmist struggled with his doubts, light began to appear. He realized that to side with the wicked would be to disgrace his heritage. He turned from self-pity and self-interest to consider some basic responsibilities (73:15-16). Transportation in his perspective crystallized in the presence of God. The experience recorded in 73:17 was pivotal for the psalmist. He had been guilty of shortsightedness (a common current phenomenon). God helped him to take the long look. The wicked were destined for destruction. Their prosperity at best was temporary. Suddenly and soon their seeming prosperous life would be cut down. As awakening ends a bad dream, so God would rouse up and the wicked would perish (73:18-20).

When the psalmist saw the destiny of the wicked, then he realized how shallow his understanding had been. He confessed his folly. He even classified himself as low as an animal because of his stupidity (73:21-22).

In contrast to his former delusion the psalmist confessed his real position "with God." It was an unbroken fellowship. Regardless of circumstances God held his hand and guided him with counsel. Most of all, ultimately God would receive him to glory (73:23-24). Scholars debate whether the psalmist contemplated heaven by his reference to "glory" in 73:24. Certainly Christians look forward to heaven, but God also "honors" on the earth those who are faithful to him.

III. Delight in the Lord (73:25-28)

When a man has God, what else does he need? Such was the conclusion of the psalmist. Whether in heaven or upon the earth the psalmist declared that having God, he desired nothing else.

No answer was found to the question of why the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer, but the psalmist made the greater discovery that God was in control. Therefore, even though he was aware of his human weakness (flesh . . . fail), his faith was established in God's ultimate sovereignty. The wicked would perish, and the righteous would prevail (73:27). The assurance of God's presence was sufficient for the psalmist. God was his refuge.

Most business problems require common sense rather than legal reference. They require good judgment and honesty of purpose rather than reference to the courts.—Edward N. Hurley

Court not the critic's smile, nor dread his frown.—Sir Walter Scott

## Uniform

### Covenant with Abraham

By Charles S. Davis, associate professor of Bible, MC  
Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-21

Recently I talked to a grandmother who, having shown me the pictures of her grandchildren, said to me: "If I'd known my grandchildren were going to be so much nicer than my children, I'd have had them first." Somehow, it just doesn't work that way; if one is going to have grandchildren, one must have children first. Abraham, having received God's promise of many descendants, had to wait 25 years for the birth of Isaac before he could begin to have descendants as numerous as "the dust of the earth" (Genesis 13:16) or "the stars in heaven" (Genesis 15:5).

I. God's call (Genesis 12:1-3)

The call of Abraham and God's covenant with him contained four promises:

(1) He would be the father of a great nation. This was fulfilled in the Hebrew people.

(2) He would have a great name. Hebrews, Christians, and Moslems all look to him as their "father in the faith."

(3) He would receive the land to which God led him. Although the fulfillment of his promise was delayed, it was realized in the possession of the land of Canaan by the Hebrews.

(4) He would be a blessing to all nations. When this call came to Abraham it did not mean that God had ceased to be concerned about other nations. On the contrary, the divine motive behind this call was a missionary one. This was the initial act in the great drama of redemption that reached its climax in the incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

II. God's consolation (Genesis 15:1-6)

Abraham had become quite anxious about the delayed fulfillment of the divine promises, for he exhibited great emotional and spiritual distress over his childlessness. Although Abraham might have interpreted God's delay as denial, God had not forgotten.

Apparently Abraham had adopted one of his servants, Eliezer, as his son. It appeared for a while that Eliezer would be his heir. Sometime after, Sarah offered her handmaid Hagar to Abraham (such an arrangement was customary and legal), and Hagar conceived and bore Ishmael. However, God made it clear to Abraham that neither Eliezer nor Ishmael would be his heir, but that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the night sky. Abraham was trusting in God all the while (Genesis 15:6); what he now needed was a word of consolation and encouragement. God gave

him the reassurance he needed by approving his obedience as "the real thing."

III. God's command (Genesis 15:7-11)

It is interesting that after Abraham's trust in God's promises had been declared such that he was acceptable to God, he still needed further assurance of God's faithfulness. This indeed illustrates the truth that "there dwells more faith in honest doubt than in a thousand creeds." God loves one who trusts him but still is prone to falter.

God commanded Abraham to get ready the sacrificial animals in preparation for a ceremony of covenant making. This time God would not only give him a promise, but he would make a formal contract with him.

IV. God's clarification (Genesis 15:12-16)

The Lord made clear to Abraham that the promises made to him would be long delayed in their fulfillment. At no point did God leave the impression with Abraham that his call to follow him was the offer of an easy way.

God helped Abraham to anticipate the dark foreboding years of the Egyptian oppression. He was reassured that his descendants would inherit the land, but it would not be a case of being "carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease." God's call—to Abraham or to us—is never just to special privilege; it is a call to a special task in God's plan of redeeming mankind.

V. God's covenant (Genesis 15:17-21)

In the customary procedure of making a covenant (the Hebrew is "cutting" a covenant), both contracting parties passed through the dissected carcasses of the sacrificial animals. However, in this instance only the chosen symbol of God's presence passed through. In this symbolic way it was indicated that Abraham's responsibility in the future success of the covenant was but to accept it in faith; it was forever guaranteed by God alone! It is this type of covenant which Jeremiah anticipated would one day be made with all Israel (Jeremiah 31:31ff.), and which the New Testament asserts has been made in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 8ff.).

The basis of mental health for the average adult is more work, provided the work is not mere drudgery.—J. B. Nash

Sin has many tools, but a lie is a handle that fits them all.—Oliver Wendell Holmes

If you must make mistakes, it will be more to your credit if you make a new one each time.

## Life and Work

### Gideon—faith that grows

By David McCubbin, associate pastor, First, Meridian  
Hebrews 11:32-38; Judges 6:1-7:23

To complete this unit "Examples of Faith" we look at the life of Gideon. The writer of Hebrews included Gideon in his roll call. Gideon's name leads the list of those the author doesn't have time to tell about. In verses 33 through 38 he pulls together the results of the faith of a number of heroes including Gideon. Because of the things that were accomplished by faith, the sufferings experienced as a result of faith the world is not worthy of these heroes.

Let's look at Gideon's growth in faith. I see him at first skeptical. As God deals with him he becomes hesitantly trusting. Finally, we find him boldly obeying. His faith grows.

Gideon needs to be seen with the backdrop of his times. When God's people fought their way in and settled Canaan, they did not drive out all the inhabitants. They settled among them and the pagan practices of the indigenous people had an adverse effect on Israel. They drifted away from God and into sin. As a consequence, God gave them up to their enemies.

These enemies would suppress them—make life absolutely miserable. The people because of their misery would cry out to God for deliverance. God would raise up a leader to deliver his people. Then there would be a rerun of the same series of events. In Gideon's day the Midianites were the oppressors (Judges 6:2).

Skeptical. Although Gideon's family were Israelites (tribe of Manasseh 6:15), they had been drawn into pagan worship (6:25). Gideon had been told of the mighty acts of God when his forefathers escaped Egypt. At the same time his own father had an altar for the worship of Baal with an Asherah (perhaps a wooden pole representing the goddess Asherah) beside it.

When Gideon was approached by God's messenger (angel) and told that the Lord had heard his people's cry of anguish and was with them he reflected skepticism. "If God is with us why are we in the mess we're in? Why hasn't God miraculously delivered us from our oppression?"

Gideon, no doubt, claimed to worship the Lord. Still he had little faith in God's power to act on behalf of his people. God's heyday was in the past, now he was strangely silent and inactive. At least that's how it appeared to Gideon.

Scepticism is also reflected in his initial response to the Lord's commis-

sion to go deliver Israel. "Why me? I am the youngest in my family and my family the weakest in Manasseh. Lord, you don't want me. How could I possibly deliver your people?"

Scepticism is seen in Gideon's request for a sign so that he might know that it was indeed the Lord who was instructing him to go (6:17-21).

Hesitantly trusting. When the angel of the Lord touched the meat and cakes on the rock with his staff and fire consumed them, Gideon seemed convinced. Then and there he built an altar to the Lord. This was probably a very significant step of faith in that the vast majority of altars there about were to Baal. In the midst of paganism Gideon erected an altar to the Lord.

The next step was a confrontation with Baalism and the worship of Asherah. He was commanded to tear down the Baal altar of his father, build an altar to the Lord on top of it, use the wood of the cut-down Asherah to kindle a fire on this altar and sacrifice one of his father's bulls. (The bull was representative of Baal.) Gideon obeyed. Baal worship was challenged. Attention was drawn to Gideon as the Lord's champion. The people were given heart and were called together to drive out the oppressor.

Even at this point we find Gideon putting out the fleece for assurance that the Lord was determined to deliver Israel by Gideon's hand. Hesitantly trusting.

Boldly obeying. With the response of 32,000 people they were all set for the push to move the Midianites out. But the Lord started whittling away reducing that great host to Gideon and a band of 300. Gideon obediently followed the Lord's instructions at every stage and then in the strength of the Lord, drove the Midianites from the area with his small band of men. He went forth confident that God would give the victory.

It is fascinating to watch Gideon's faith grow from scepticism to trustingly and boldly obeying. Can we see ourselves growing in faith?

### Piano bought for Yellowstone

A Baldwin piano for Yellowstone Baptist College has been bought. A plaque was placed on it which reads: Donated by Mississippi Baptist Musicians sponsored by Mississippi Singing Churchmen, 1982. Seventeen churches contributed \$1,900 to the piano fund.